



# PRESS NOTICE

## BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 \* Columbia, SC 29201 \* (803) 929-3000*

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**February 10, 2012**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON: BETH DRAKE  
First Assistant U.S. Attorney  
[Beth.Drake@usdoj.gov](mailto:Beth.Drake@usdoj.gov)  
(803) 929-3000

### **Bennettsville Man Sentenced on Charges of Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property**

**Columbia, South Carolina----** United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Willie Robert Douglas, a/k/a WR, age 57, of Bennettsville, South Carolina, was sentenced in federal court in Florence, South Carolina, for interstate transportation of stolen property, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2314. United States District Judge R. Bryan Harwell of Florence sentenced Douglas to 2 months imprisonment, three years supervised release with the first eighteen months being home detention with electronic monitoring. Douglas was also ordered to pay \$39,619.98 in restitution.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that Douglas and Daniel David stole more than \$50,000 of merchandise in the form of soybean and corn seeds, chemicals and a trailer from the Southern States store in Bennettsville, South Carolina, then transported it to North Carolina where it was ultimately sold to Lynwood Johnson. Douglas was sentenced after the court granted the government's motion for a

sentence reduction based on cooperation provided by Douglas which assisted in prosecuting Lynwood Johnson, the farmer who purchased the property stolen by Douglas and Daniel David. Johnson pled guilty in December 2011, but died before he could be sentenced. Douglas also testified at the trial of Daniel David which was concluded January 25, 2012, when David was convicted.

The case was investigated by the Marlboro County Sheriff' Office and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney William E. Day, II, of the Florence office handled the case.

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